THE NEW BUILDING-ACT.

SIR,—Be pleased to accept my best thanks for the insertion of my letter relative to the above subject. I think your proposition, as to the examiners for the new district surveyors, most excellent; for the very good and sound reasons you have given: a certificate from such a court, so constituted, would be valued by the profession, the surveyor himself, and the public generally, more than fifty from such a society as that of the Institute of British Architects; and as to the Civil Engineers, I think they have quite enough to do, particularly just now, to properly attend to their own important affairs (made so certainly by their own glorious exertions), without interfering with such intricate matters as those embraced in a Building-Act. It is a deep move on the part of the I. B. A. to couple themselves with such a well-established society as that of the Engineers; and I hope those members of the profession, not belonging to the Institute, will see through it, and call to mind the old proverb that "drowning men catch at straws."

As small street houses will cover more space, and be more expensive to erect, the tenants will of necessity be obliged to *let off* as much as possible, to enable them to pay the additional rent; the consequent evil will follow of over-crowding them with inhabitants; therefore, it will be important, when erecting them, to embrace any means of *cheap* ventilation. I venture to throw out the above hint, with the hope that some regulations for this desirable purpose may be inserted in the new Bill.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant, M.

P. S. In THE BUILDER, No. 35, is a plan described for this purpose.

FELT ROOFING—SMELL OF TAR.

SIR,—I have tried the Felt-roofing recommended some time since in your periodical, and find it a most excellent and serviceable article for the purpose. But I find this evil in it—the material with which it is directed to be painted is gas-tar mixed with lime, the smell from which is sickly and offensive, and affects the air of the interior of the buildings covered with it. Can any of your correspondents furnish a recipe for removing the smell?

If the felt were painted instead of tarred, there would still, I imagine, be a smell arising from the asphalte itself, rendering it an objectionable covering for dwellings.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Folkstone, July 8. K. D.

Miscellanea.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF SEWERS AND THE THAMES EMBANKMENT.—Since the recent Inundations of the river Thames on the inhabitants of the south shore, the commissioners have betaken themselves to the only method of removing the evil—namely, the sinking of the sewers and drains many feet below the present level. The fact is notorious along the neighbourhood of Bankside, that long before the tide overflowed the quays and wharfs, the cellars and streets in the rear were filled with water, which came up through the several drains and cesspools, not only causing the greatest alarm and confusion, but inflicting much injury on the public health. The commissioners have at length been made sensible of this evil, and several hundred men are now actively employed in this most necessary undertaking. Mr. Rose, the architect of St. Saviour's, states that the whole of the mischief done both to health and to property by the supposed overflowing of the south bank of the Thames is attributable alone to the long-neglected and defective sewerage.

BRISTOL—SOUTHEY.—Some friends and admirers of the late poet-laureate, residing in Bristol and its neighbourhood, of which city the poet was a native, are desirous of marking the sense they entertain of his worth and genius, by the erection of a monument in the Cathedral. The Mayor, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, Lord Jeffery, W. S. Landor, Esq., and J. Cottle, Esq., have headed a list of contributions.

YORK MINSTER BELLS.—Two of the bells, which complete the Beckwith peal, arrived at York on Saturday morning last.

RIVER DUN IMPROVEMENTS.—These improvements progress very satisfactorily. The company's workmen, numbering nearly one hundred, have commenced re-building the bridges on the line of the canal from Sandall to Stainforth. There are five bridges, and these for the future will be made of wood, and swing, in order that vessels in full rigging may be able to pursue their course along the river without any interruption. On the completion of the bridges, the passages in the canal underneath the bridges will be widened. The various bridges between Thorne Waterside and Goole have also lately received considerable improvements, especially Goole Bridge, which will now admit of the steam-packets passing to and fro with a space of eight feet to spare, where formerly there was only a few inches, to the great danger at that time of the steamers plying on the river. The River Dun Company are in treaty with the proprietors of the Stainforth and Keadby Canal for the purchase of their canal, which would give a still better communication with Hull and Doncaster. The present draught of water in the river Dun is about six feet three inches, and in the Keadby Canal seven feet. This, however, could easily be raised three feet, by taking eighteen inches from the bottom and laying it upon the tops of the banks. It is presumed, if the River Dun Company should purchase the Keadby Canal, they will make a short canal in order to join the Dutch river, which would lessen the distance between Hull and Doncaster considerably. The distance is at present, either *viâ* Thorne Waterside or the Keadby Canal, about fifty-two miles.

HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—The first wing of this institution, of which Prince Albert laid the first stone on the 11th ult., is now in progress. It is so planned as by successive additions to accommodate from 100 to 250 patients. The interior arrangements having, after very mature deliberation, been adopted by the medical officers and approved by gentlemen of experience in such matters, it is expected that the new hospital will offer facilities for treating consumption which no other institution possesses. In the warming and ventilation, the temperature will be made to approximate to different climates, and the atmosphere of particular apartments will be impregnated with various gases and vapours. A chapel, designed by the same architect, F. J. Francis, Esq., will be attached to the hospital.

YORKSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—On Tuesday week, a meeting of the committee of the Yorkshire Architectural Society was held in the society's museum, Minster-yard, York. At two o'clock in the afternoon, the meeting was opened to the public. The Venerable Robert Isaac Wilberforce, Archdeacon of the East Riding of Yorkshire, in the chair. A paper was read by the Rev. Charles Whately, rector of Rise, upon the architecture of Swine Church, and a highly interesting detail of an ecclesiological ramble in the northern part of Yorkshire read by J. W. Hugall, Esq., of Oulton, being one of a party of three who recently visited the churches in that riding. The society having fitted up a large room belonging to the Dean and Chapter of York, will henceforth hold quarterly meetings in that city, the next meeting being fixed for the 24th of October.

ANCIENT RELICS.—The men employed in excavating the new road to Leckhampton-hall, on Tuesday last, in removing a tumulus, discovered the skeleton of a man, with his teeth entire. From a helmet and several portions of armour being found with the bones, it is conjectured to be the remains of a Dane, who from the manner of sepulture must have borne distinguished military rank, and which had rested in the peaceful grave for nearly one thousand years. This conjecture is the more probable, as some few years since a skeleton was disinterred at Shurdington, over which a stone with an inscription denoting whose remains it covered was found.—*Cheltenham Examiner.*

York Minster was re-opened on Friday week, after having undergone a complete restoration.

The whole line of coast from Dover to the Land's End is to be surveyed, with a view to its fortification.

WINCHESTER.—It is recorded by Dr. Milner, the learned author of the History and Antiquities of Winchester, that the cathedral which existed before the present structure was commenced by Bishop Walkelyn, about the year 1080, extended some feet further to the west. This statement is now verified in a curious manner: from the long-continued drought, the grass growing over the spots where the foundations were presents the appearance of being burnt, and the plan of the foundations is as distinctly visible as if but just marked out. A similar result is produced in the meadow adjoining the College, called "the Elizabeth Mead," where the ground-plan of a church or chapel is clearly and distinctly defined by the burnt appearance of the grass. In this meadow formerly stood a College dedicated to St. Elizabeth, and a Chapel of St. Stephen. The plan of the building now visible is therefore that of St. Stephen's Chapel, or of the Church of the College of St. Elizabeth.—*Wiltshire Independent.*

KILMERSDON.—THE EMPEROR TRAJAN.—A silver coin of this reign, in excellent preservation, was lately dug up at Cherry Garden Farm, the residence of Mr. William Ford. The bust of the Emperor is executed in a remarkably bold and striking manner, surmounted with the initials S.P.Q.R. It must have been struck off soon after Trajan conquered the kingdom of Dacia, and added it as a province to the Roman empire, A.D. 103, as the word Dacia is on the coin, also his titles of Augustus, Germanicus, and Optimus Princeps—the last "the best of Princes," awarded to him for his virtues. On the reverse is an elegant figure of a female at full-length, probably of his Empress Plotina Pompeia. The die must have been a beautiful specimen of workmanship, far surpassing any that our mint can produce.—*Somerset Gazette.*

Tenders.

TENDERS delivered for erecting a Grand Stand on Northampton Race-course.—J. Elliott, Architect.—June 28, 1844.

Whitney	£1,500
Fisher	1,368
Harris	1,477
Smith and Son	1,445
Robinson and Sparkes	1,265

TENDERS delivered for building nine third-rate Houses in the Old Kent-road, for John Gurney.—J. Bird, Esq., Architect.—June 29, 1844.

Harris	£5,900
Hall	5,619
Ashbey	5,495
Hains	5,494
Lawrence	5,287
T. Bursenshaw	4,971
Hadnutt	4,867

TENDERS delivered at the Board Room, Mount-street, for the erection of Industrial Schools at Little Chelsea.

Armstrong and Smith	£9,400
Gillot	9,192
Dixon	9,127
Cashell	8,980
Bird	8,798
Reid	8,770
Herbert	8,690
Hicks	8,635
Higgs	8,584
Elgin	8,468
Winsland	8,389

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

For certain alterations and additions at the Workhouse at Stamford Rivers, Chipping Ongar.—Plans, &c., at the Workhouse. W. Baker, Clerk. July 22.

For erecting two Chapels, Entrance Lodge, and necessary outbuildings, at the Cemetery now in progress on the Southampton Common. Mr. Doswell, Albion-place, Southampton. July 18.

For the erection of a Building on the premises of the Workhouse of the parish of St. Mary, Newington.—Plan, &c., Mr. Edmonds, Surveyor, Bridge-street, Southwark. July 15.

For certain alterations and additions to the Treadwheels, and for Air Pumps to be connected therewith, and also for certain Hand Crank Machines for hand labour at Norwich Castle.—Drawings &c., at the Castle.—Further information, Mr. Brown, County Surveyor, Norwich. July 19.

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